

TO PROTECT PRIVATE DECISIONS
ABOUT MARRIAGE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution "To Protect Private Decisions About Marriage." The decision to marry is one of the most personal and important decisions that many of us will make in our lifetime. When you ask someone to spend the rest of his or her life with you, it should be done out of love, admiration, devotion and respect. Choosing to get married is a truly monumental decision and is usually one of the most memorable moments of our lives.

Because the decision to marry is such a personal one, interference from outside parties is rarely warranted or appreciated. Many Americans turn to their friends, family or religious leaders when making a decision about marriage. Others turn only to their future partner. No one, however, turns to the government. And for good reason. Government interference in decisions about marriage is simply not warranted.

Unfortunately, President Bush does not agree. The Bush Administration has proposed to spend \$30 million dollars to promote marriage in this year's welfare reauthorization bill. This misguided policy intrudes on private decision between adults and takes needed funds away from programs that actually help raise poor people out of poverty.

This year, Congress must consider legislation to reauthorize the welfare program. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, passed in 1995, helped many citizens find work, but not necessarily work that pays a living wage. As we consider reauthorizing TANF, we have an opportunity to direct our welfare program toward the important goal of lifting the poor out of poverty. The Bush administration, however, would rather push poor people into marriage.

Stable, healthy marriages are very important for raising our children. The very institution of marriage is a cornerstone of our society and is a critical element in creating stable families.

Marriage is not for everyone, though. Some people simply cannot make marriages work, for personal, religious or other reasons. In more tragic cases, marriage is literally not safe because of an abusive spouse. Government involvement in marriage, therefore, is just not appropriate.

The American people agree. According to a recent Pew Research Center study, 79 percent of Americans believe the government should not develop programs to encourage people to marry or remain married. Furthermore, 66 percent of Americans who identify themselves as "strongly religious" believe the government should not interfere with decisions about marriage, according to the same poll. The American people clearly do not agree with the President's proposal.

In addition, government interference in promoting or coercing people to marry could have unintended, tragic consequences. According to a joint report by the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services, 25 percent of women said they have been raped or physically assaulted by their current or former spouse. More alarming still, research shows

that 60 percent of women on welfare have suffered from domestic violence. As these statistics confirm, if government were to encourage or coerce someone on welfare to get married, it would not guarantee a healthier or safer family, and it could endanger the lives of mothers and children.

Not only is government involvement in promoting marriage a potentially dangerous endeavor and an unnecessary intrusion of privacy, it also takes money away from programs that really do create more stable and healthy families.

The problems facing poor people on welfare won't be solved by getting married. What families on welfare need is greater access to childcare, healthcare and job training. Evidence shows that an overwhelming obstacle for welfare parents looking for a job is the lack of quality, affordable childcare for their children. Providing better, stable childcare has proven working adults in employment. This applies to healthcare and job training as well. By providing better healthcare and more access to job training, we can equip poor families with the tools they need to provide for their families and have more stable lives. Why should we waste \$300 million coercing people to get married when that money could be better spent helping people out of poverty?

The Bush Administration's marriage promotion proposal is misguided, potentially harmful, and not supported by the American people. The resolution that I am introducing today says it is the sense of Congress that government resources not be used to influence, promote, or coerce individuals' private decisions about marriage. I hope my colleagues will join with me in supporting this important resolution and I call on the Bush Administration to reconsider this ill-advised proposal.

HONORING THE PONTIAC NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEGRO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the recipients of the annual awards presented by the Pontiac National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club. The awards will be presented at a luncheon on May 4th.

Over the past 37 years the Pontiac Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women will present the awards to individuals and organizations that have strived to improve the common good of all people. At the ceremony Lillie Nicholas will receive the Sojourner Truth Award, Hobert Maxey will receive the Frederick Douglass Award, the Honorable Brenda Lawrence, Dr. Sharon L. Blackman, and Patricia L. Guthery will receive the Black Woman Achiever Award. Donald and Patricia Cordell and Alma M. Bradley-Petters will receive the Community Service Award. The Ombudswoman Award will be presented to Karen Barner.

Mr. Speaker, the Pontiac Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Pro-

fessional Women has given over \$36,000 in scholarships. This has enabled many African American students to pursue further education. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending the Club and their members for their contributions to the Pontiac area and their efforts to promote education.

BLOOMFIELD CITIZENS COUNCIL
AWARDS

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a number of Pittsburgh residents who will be honored on May 4th with Bloomfield Citizens Council Awards.

Every year, the Bloomfield Citizens Council gives out these awards to recognize members of the community who have improved the quality of life in the Bloomfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the 2002 award winners for their efforts to make Bloomfield a better place to live.

Robert Scullion, Jr. has been selected as the 2002 recipient of the Mary Cicone Outstanding Citizen Award. This award is given to individuals who demonstrate "an unselfish commitment to others and a deep love for the community of Bloomfield." Mr. Scullion, a lifelong Bloomfield resident, has demonstrated his commitment and love in a great number of ways, including his efforts on behalf of organizations like the Blind Outdoor Leisure Organization and the National Alliance for Autistic Research, his volunteer work for the St. Francis Hospital Ministry and the Prison Ministry for Western Penitentiary, and his participation in a number of Bloomfield sports leagues.

A Community Commitment Award will go to Mr. Joseph Covelli, who has served the community through his job as Principal of Elizabeth Seton Elementary School, as well as his work on such annual events as the Halloween parade and the Bloomfield Citizens Council Marathon Festival. Mr. Covelli also coaches a girls' softball team, and he has been very active in church affairs.

The Bloomfield Citizens will present four individuals with its Youth Dedication Award this year. Mrs. Lisa Thompson Gallagher will receive the Youth Dedication Award for coaching softball for the Bloomfield Girls Athletic Association for 15 years. Ms. Marlene Scholze will receive this award for volunteering as a softball coach for nearly 20 years. Mrs. Beverly Helwich was selected to receive a Youth Dedication award for her many years of coaching softball and basketball. She also has volunteered her time to the Immaculate Conception Athletic Association, which sponsors elementary school football. Mrs. Kim Schimmel Spears will receive a Youth Dedication Award for her many years of coaching basketball, softball, tee-ball, and Little League.

The Bloomfield Citizens Council will again present a number of awards for Christmas decorations this year. Mrs. Pat Donatelli Melfi and her sons will receive the Keeping Christ in Christmas Award for the nativity scene they created. Brian and Tresmarie Foulton Scanlon will receive the Most Outstanding and Completely Decorated Home Award this year. They

are repeat award winners, having won this award previously in 1998. Finally, the Most Creative Design Award will be presented to Mrs. Pat and Miss Dana Smith for a decoration scheme that accented many of the architectural features of their home.

In closing, let me just say that all of the individuals receiving 2002 Bloomfield Citizens Council awards have made important contributions to the quality of life in Bloomfield. On behalf of the residents of Bloomfield and the rest of the 14th Congressional District, I thank them for their efforts and congratulate them on their selection as recipients of 2002 Bloomfield Citizens Council awards.

IN MEMORY OF KIMBERLY "KIM"
ANNE HOLLOWAY

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a young woman, Kimberly "Kim" Anne Holloway who unexpectedly passed away on March 2, 2002 due to complications from a kidney infection. I ask my colleagues to join me, together with her family and friends in mourning for her untimely death.

Kim was born on June 10, 1974 in Santa Monica, California to Daniel and Hilda Holloway. Growing up in LaPuente, California, she graduated from William Workman High School and proceeded to Mount San Antonio College. Kim was an honor student and talented athlete who excelled in soccer and track. To help pay for college, she worked as a scheduler at Disneyland in Anaheim. Kim later transferred to California State University at Fullerton, and was looking forward to graduating in June.

Kim loved the simple things in life; literature, music, movies, and like every other teen, fashion. But what endeared Kim to her family and friends was that she was always there when they needed her. Always ready to help out her brother or sisters, or a friend in need.

Mr. Speaker, a person's life is not measured by the length of their stay here on Earth, but rather by the quality of the life they lived. By this measure, Kimberly Anne Holloway is richer than many of us could ever become. She was a dedicated student, a hardworking employee, a loyal friend, and most importantly, a loving daughter.

CALLAWAY GARDENS 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, on May 21, 2002 one of Georgia's treasures will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Created as a place "prettier than anything since the Garden of Eden," Cason and Virginia Callaway envisioned a verdant preserve of some of the most beautiful flora and fauna in our nation. Today, Callaway Gardens is all of that and so much more.

Featuring the world's largest man-made inland, white-sand beach, a world-class resort,

world's largest azalea garden, acclaimed golf, birds of prey program, and a collection of plumleaf azaleas, a plant which the Callaway's rescued from the verge of extinction, Callaway Gardens has been a place of relaxation and beauty for generations of Americans.

Keats once wrote,

"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet
breathing."

That is the most appropriate description I have ever heard for Callaway Gardens.

As the family of Cason and Virginia Callaway celebrate the 50th anniversary of their parents' dream, I congratulate them for continuing to make that dream a reality. A friend of farmers, environmentalists, and those who appreciate beauty, the Callaways have crafted a marvel of modern day horticulture and botany in the midst of rural Georgia. I am pleased to represent the people who work at and lead Callaway Gardens, and I am pleased that such a thing of beauty is located in the Third District of the great State of Georgia.

STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN
MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this spring at the University of Vermont. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

I respectfully request that the following testimonials be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ON BEHALF OF SAM PARKER, BECCA VAN
HORN, AND ELI BRANNON
REGARDING FREE TRADE
(April 8, 2002)

ELI BRANNON: Free trade is a method for countries to trade internationally without having to worry about tariffs or barriers. The first step towards free trade was taken in 1948 with the creation of GAT, the General Agreement Tariffs rate. GAT was formed as a way to provide rules for countries to dismantle trade barriers and organize a system of commercial business. Unfortunately, it did not live up to expectations.

GATT was transformed into the World Trade Organization, or WTO, on January 1, 1995. Before the World Trade Organization was created, North America had already created its own system of trade, the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA. NAFTA has grown to include Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Free trade is supposed to help support the countries involved. It does create more jobs, lowers taxes on trade, and makes some Second World Nations like South Korea and Taiwan want to attend trade liberalization. However, the advantages are overshadowed by the numerous disadvantages, including worker exploitation, job loss effects on the agricultural community, and the obvious attempt for corporate profit.

SAM PARKER: NAFTA was originally established to help solve North America's problems, increase of trade surplus, standard of living, and better jobs, among other things. Before NAFTA, the U.S. agricultural trade surplus with Mexico and Canada was \$203 million. Since NAFTA was established in 1994, this surplus fell \$1.498 million.

What NAFTA does not openly stop our economy's advancement, it has set it far behind. NAFTA promised an increase in jobs for Americans. Not only has this not happened, but more than 350 U.S. workers have lost their jobs. Many of these jobs were given to Mexican workers being paid one-third of what Americans are paid.

Another promise of NAFTA was to boost the agricultural economy. The farming community has been given nothing but false hopes with the promise of more jobs. Farming income has declined and consumer prices have gone up.

Although NAFTA and free trade look appealing on the outside, the effects are devastating to most working-class persons.

BECCA VAN HORN: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the multinational corporations, and to the profit for which they stand, one interlocking directorate under no government, indivisible, with monopoly and cheap labor for all.

This pledge epitomizes the only noticeable progress of the World Trade Organization. Free trade, and therefore NAFTA and the World Trade Organization, which attempts to globalize economies without globalizing human rights, only leads to big corporations exploiting the Third World. While supporting the capitalists, the big corporations who benefit most from free trade, the World Trade Organization advances by exploiting the Third World proletarians, opposing human rights and demands for adequate working conditions.

The World Trade Organization thrives on maintaining the status quo by taking American jobs and giving them to eleven-year-old Indonesian children working in a Nike factory for 83 cents per day. Free trade helps the First World, but leaves the poorest with barely .4 percent of all global trade. That is barbaric. You do not keep the standard of living for America by exploiting one group of people. The Third World has taken an incredible hit.

The World Trade Organization supports groups like the International Monetary Fund, whose only purpose is to loan money to countries in dire situations, and then demand the money back at an incredibly high interest rate. By supporting organizations like the IMF, and only looking at how the rich can flourish, the World Trade Organization is dooming the Third World to never advance economically.

This is not an impossible situation. If free trade focuses on advancing all social classes, it will be beneficial to the First and Third worlds. There would be more American jobs, farmers could prosper, and, although big corporations would lose money, they could begin to cleanse their moral values.

If the Third World is able to focus on trading with each other and the First World on an equal basis, their children could go to school and their economy progress. If an organization like the U.N. helped put that eleven-year-old Indonesian child into a plausible trade, their population would not be doomed to factory work at subsistence wages and no benefits.

Of course, it would be difficult. But free trade attempts to globalize only one aspect of our world, increasing the disparity in every other way. Free trade, and therefore NAFTA and the WTO, globalizes economies, not for the betterment of the world, but for corporations and consumerism, creating a